

Pride of Meltham / Service to the Community Awards 2017

This year's awards were presented at the Civic Reception on Friday 21 April 2017 at Meltham's Community and Sports Centre, the very worthy recipients were:-



ERIC MARSH was born in January 1927. He moved to Meltham 22 years ago and is a member of the Baptist Chapel. He has always been happy to give lifts in his little car, whenever needed. Eric worked for a number of years at the Crossroads Shop, entertaining customers with his fabulous sense of humour.

Until recently, he has been heavily involved with 'Operation Christmas Child', packing and collecting shoe boxes. Once packed they are delivered to disadvantaged children abroad in time for Christmas.

Unfortunately, after he turned 90 in January, Eric was quite ill and was not up to his usual activities. Saturday coffee mornings at the church hall were not the same without him, when he could often be seen selling quiz sheets, he had invented himself, to raise money for one cause or another.

He is a well liked and popular member of the Community and no one is more deserving of a Pride of Meltham Award.

DARREL CLEGG - From the first year that the Meltham Greenway opened, Darrel Clegg offered his services to help to keep the area tidy and he has returned at the end of every summer to carry out this task. He has cut back trees where necessary and often where other volunteers would not have been capable of doing so.

In 2015 when a section of the Greenway became dangerous, a local company was employed to create some steps but after they failed to carry out the work, Darrel stepped in and completed the work in a week for the same price.

Many people in Meltham speak highly of Darrel and we are delighted to present him with the Pride of Meltham Award.



MELTHAM MEMORIES is a popular annual 1940s weekend and this year took place on 1st and 2nd July 2017. The idea started in the pub – a conversation between the landlady, Pam Cox, and a couple of customers almost 10 years ago. The event has continued to grow each year – with more visitors, stalls and exhibitions and each year, a parade, followed by a fly-past from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

This year is its 10th annual event and although the faces behind the scenes have changed, the economic impact, which the weekend generates, should not be underestimated. It has now reached a stage where it is self-funding, a testament to the fundraising activities and diligent work which is delivered by the Committee all year round.

Therefore a worthy group to receive a Pride of Meltham Award.

REVEREND MAUREEN READ came to the Parish of Christ the King on 24th February 2009.

Maureen soon became an important figure in Meltham, often known as the 'kissing vicar' to the adults and the 'high five vicar' to the children. She had a busy time with four churches to look after in the area and was often seen rushing from one to another to perform two services on a Sunday morning.

The Parish had hoped to keep her until her retirement next year, but a phone call from the Bishop changed that and the lady is going home to Shropshire where she was born.

She will be sadly missed in Meltham, as she is a caring, loving and popular lady, who has always had time for everyone who needs her. We are delighted to be presenting Maureen with Meltham's special 'Service to the Community Award' as we say 'Thank you' and wish her good luck in her new position.



DR MITCHELL started work in Meltham on 1st September 1987 and soon became a partner with Dr "Mac" Coates and Dr Liz Tattersall. Dr Mitchell and his partners saw the importance of developing a wider primary healthcare team which included not only District Nurses and Health Visitors, but also Physiotherapists, Social Workers and Clinical Psychiatric Nurses.

Dr Mitchell and his colleagues have always strived to provide consistent high-quality care, trying to do the best for their patients in Meltham.

Dr. Mitchell and his wife Anne are retired but still have the garden to look after and are running 5km several times a week and Dr. Mitchell continues to work ad hoc locum sessions at the practice. With this award, we thank Dr Mitchell for his dedicated years of Service to the Community.

DOCTOR MICHAEL PACYNKO took over the Meltham Village Surgery in 1991. There were no fixed premises and for quite a while, Dr Pacynko ran his surgery from a portable cabin in the Carlile Street car park with no running water. When one of his first patients required his ears syringing, this had to be done in the public toilets.

Things have improved tremendously since then and the future of the surgery has recently been secured by the merger with Elmoor Family Doctors in Holmfirth, so after nearly 26 years, Dr Pacynko decided to retire and spend some leisure time with his family, planning trips with his wife in their camper van and his much loved sport of fishing.

With this award, we thank Dr Pacynko for his dedicated years of Service to the Community and although he will be missed, we wish him a long and happy retirement.



Grants Awarded 2016/17



£2,531.00	St Bartholomews	Completing carillon repairs
£1,920.00	Meltham Carlile Support Group	Carlile Institute 125 Anniversary Event
£ 600.00	Meltham Parish Hall Committee	Towards a new dishwasher
£2,200.00	Helme Church	Towards repairs to the spire
£ 435.00	Meltham Moor School	Defibrillator
£1,000.00	Over 70s Christmas Gift	Over 70s gift
£ 350.00	Meltham Churches Together	Carols in the Park
£8,000.00	Meltham Sports & Community Group Ltd	Towards installation of a new lift
£1,000.00	Meltham Mills Brass Band	Towards installation of new boiler

Meltham Mercury

Meltham Town Council's Annual Report 2016/2017 - Summer 2017



The Council offices are open:-

Mon 1pm-5pm

Tues 9am-5pm

Wed 9am-1pm

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The Council offices are on the first floor of
The Carlile Institute (access via lift or stairs).

Clr Pat Maxfield - Town Mayor of Meltham Town Council 2016 - 2017 Town Mayor's Report 2016/17



It has been with great pride and pleasure that I have had the opportunity to be the Mayor of Meltham and Chairman to the Council.

Meltham is a great place to live and set up roots.

Our younger children are so fortunate to have three local and caring schools, where the value of learning both inside and outside the classroom is high on the agenda.

We are also extremely fortunate to have the most outstanding landscapes, walks and recreational facilities. It is true to say that every one of our children can be entertained completely free of charge. All they need is the encouragement to enjoy and love their surroundings being completely enveloped in nature's garden.

Children learn from us, the adults, as well as lessons in the classroom. Meltham has something for everyone including the fit and active and the not so fit and active. Those with musical abilities, those not quite so musical. Those who just want to be entertained and those who want to entertain. What becomes apparent from a very early age is that those groups and activities are all made available to us because of the amazing volunteer groups present in the community. Being a part of this community spirit gives our youngsters something to strive for, something to achieve, however large or small.

It has been my honour to represent Meltham at many Civic events and I have been welcomed at all of these.

It was a privilege to walk the Blue Plaque trail and learn more about Meltham's history. I have been invited to Helme Hall and seen the amazing work here. Helping their clients to enjoy the present whilst still remembering the past.

I have been invited to Meltham Moor and to Helme schools, impressed by their dedication, sometimes under very difficult circumstances, due to cuts in the education system.

Then there were our young authors who attended a workshop, lasting a number of weeks. Together these young authors

have produced the most amazing book. Their imagination and talent gives us great hope for the future.

This year three people were nominated for the Pride of Meltham awards. All three were so very deserving of their awards: Mr Eric Marsh, Mr Darrel Clegg and Mrs Pam Cox (who represented Meltham Memories). We have two General Practitioners who have retired this year, Dr Rob Mitchell and Dr Mike Pacynko, both received a much valued service to the Community award.

My address cannot end without mentioning the Carlile Community Hub. This place is 'alive', no matter what time of day or evening you go in. It is a magnificent tribute to the hard work and dedication of the Trustees and especially to Cllr Richard Noon and Cllr Paul White.

Looking back over the year it has had its challenges.

There are the cutbacks from Kirklees to deal with and your proactive Town Council has been assessing the impact of this and planning a way forward.

We have had spates of petty crime but the investment in the CCTV cameras has worked well, keeping crime down. Sadly, this did not prevent the Council Regalia being stolen, now part of an ongoing investigation being carried out by the CID.

There are many new housing estates being built in Meltham and this is changing some of our open countryside. We could have a negative view of this or we could be really positive. Industry is thriving in Meltham and there is more room for expansion. It gives us the opportunity to change more lives. Let's welcome people to our Community and show them what we do best.

I have a lot of people to thank this year.

All members of the Town Council for their hard work; the Finance committee and the Planning, Environmental and General Purposes Committee; Sarah Armitage, who left us last year for pastures new, but who has continued to this day to give support; Angela Royle, who stepped in and was so hard working in keeping the business flowing. Last but not least, welcome and thank you to Michelle Chard, Clerk to Meltham Town Council, who has taken everything on board at a very busy and difficult time.

Clr Pat Maxfield, Town Mayor of Meltham 2016/17



Cllr David Haigh J.P.

Annual Report from the Chair of the Town Council's Finance, Property and Administration Committee 2016/17 Cllr David Haigh J.P.

Our committee has the responsibility for managing the finances of the council so that we can efficiently carry out the duties of our office in a proper manner, administering the Council, looking after our properties and their contents and fixtures.

library service in the Township, and this is an area under further threat of funding. Our preferred option for cleansing/gardening will not be to take on Kirklees services directly, but to go out to competitive tender for any necessary provision. Please keep your Town councillors informed on any areas of concern related to the above matters.

In terms of Administration we have tried to be careful with our spending but have seen a small increase in the precept for 2017-18 to take account of rising costs and the need to have balances available to take on board any Kirklees services in need of replacing or supplementing.

We have retained the Town Council funded village centre CCTV system as well as the mobile hot spot surveillance camera in the Sefton and Mean Lane areas, where anti-social behaviour has occurred, and this has been helpful in calming matters.

Our main expenditure continues to be on the Robert Ashton Memorial Park, where in addition to usual revenue costs we have invested in improvements to the pond and its environment and the tennis court netting and playground surfaces which will be replaced as the weather improves. Many Melthamers value this amenity, but unfortunately we do suffer vandalism now and again which adds to upkeep costs.

A good number of years ago a large part of the Meltham Hall Estate and the Hall itself was sold by the Town Council, after David Brown Tractors vacated, and the money realised is carefully

invested by the council. It is still being used to allow, on a yearly basis, grants for capital and revenue costs related to village organisations and bodies as well as loans to such vital charities such as The Carlile Institute Community Hub, which are the bedrock of the Meltham Township.

The Carlile Institute building renovations and improvements were completed during the course of the councils 2016-17 Civic Year. They are a credit to the trustees and support group, and I am sure will prove invaluable in providing further accommodation and space for volunteer groups and small businesses in the Township.

One of our major tasks is to try and find a good rate of interest for these earmarked community funds, in savings that councils are allowed to invest in; unfortunately even for long term investment the interest rate is rarely much more than one per cent per year at the moment. However, we are determined to ensure we retain funds that we can use for the benefit of the village. Indeed we may need to provide monies for training volunteers or contribution to start off funding for voluntary organisations stepping in to areas that Kirklees Council can no longer afford to provide.

I do believe we have done our level best to carry out the action points in the council plan outlined for 2016-17 in the Meltham Mercury last year, and thank my fellow councillors and in particular my Vice Chair Paul White, for their assistance in carrying out our mission to ensure Meltham is a great place to live in for all of us, by careful and considered use of our council monies, staff and properties for the good of our community.

Summary of Income and Expenditure Account

	2016/17	2015/16
Income (revenue)		
Precept and grant from Kirklees	79554	56590
Interest and dividends	4592	6597
Rental, loans and miscellaneous	14433	7518
TOTAL INCOME	98579	70705
Expenditure (revenue)		
Administration	45271	44045
Meltham Hall Estate	42204	28111
Services	3523	2166
Loans	0	0
Expenditure (capital)	9378	20818
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	100376	95140
Cumulative Fund Balance		
Balance brought forward 1st April	457433	481867
Net movement in funds	-1797	-24434
Balance carried forward 31st March	455636	457433

When we budgeted for 2016/17 and indeed recently for 2017/18 we had to take account of the cutback in monies from Central Government to Kirklees Council, and that we as a Town Council might need to step in to provide some services.

We still do not have a totally clear picture, but have been careful to budget a contingency fund for possible expenditure areas related to minor street and footpath cleansing and the cutting and maintenance of green /public areas. The Town Council's planning committee is gathering information together on areas that we may need to take action on to keep our village clean and tidy. We already donate £4,000 per year to the cost of keeping a

CCTV SUCCESSES



Following a number of incidents, the police have been able to access CCTV footage to help them identify culprits and reduce crime in Meltham. Your Council is committed to the ongoing use of CCTV which can only be accessed by the police to help them in their enquiries.

TARGETING MELTHAM'S GROT SPOTS

The Council has identified a number of 'grot spots' in Meltham, Helme and Wilshaw and is funding work to tackle these areas. We will be working in collaboration with Kirklees Council to ensure that together the Township is well maintained. Please contact the Town Council if you have any concerns.

ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS

The zebra crossing on Huddersfield Road should be a safe place for all to cross. The Council has been contacted by members of the public with information that illegally parked cars are causing near misses on the crossing. This is a major concern and we would ask your help in informing the police if you see cars parking on the pavement near the crossing or on the hazard lines.



Report from the Chair of the Council's Environmental, Planning and General Purposes Committee 2016/17 Cllr Richard Noon

The Council's Environmental, Planning and General Purposes Committee has had another busy and fulfilling year, and yet again we have considered a large number of planning applications. It is really encouraging to see continued investment and development in the area from our local businesses – most notably those at Meltham Mills; the Towndoor estate has benefited from a series of large investments by the company. This investment and support for the estate will ensure that it continues to play an important role in Meltham's history – just as the Brook's family and David Brown helped transform our Town from the 1800s onwards, so too the businesses operating from the entire Meltham Mills estate will continue to provide wealth creation and jobs for residents in our town.

On the high street, we continue to see almost 100% occupancy of shops and business premises, as well as improvements and redevelopment of some existing sites. This type of regeneration is

very important for our Town, as it not only generates employment opportunities but also creates new services for the residents of our Parish.

The volume of new housing in Meltham is now very visible. Houses are springing up quite rapidly following the planning process being completed on many sites in the last year. Many residents have concerns around school places, traffic volumes and general over development. We have had many residents contact the Town Council about this. They are topics that we as a Council will continue to challenge Kirklees Council and their planning policies and decision making. Some of these decisions, it has to be said, have fallen short of the standards we expect, as a Town Council, for our Township. There are too many times that Kirklees Planning decisions do insufficient to protect the environmental quality and green space in our community.

Each of the areas above, combined with a tremendous community spirit, make Meltham a desirable place to live. Indeed, talking to other Parish Councillors from around Kirklees and beyond, they are often envious of what we have. As a Town Council we have a duty to protect what we have and, furthermore a responsibility to enhance it in sustainable, innovative and where it allows, inspirational ways. The Carlile Institute, the Pleasure Grounds, Meltham Sports Complex, Crossroads, The Robert Ashton Memorial Park and the Greenway are all terrific examples of the community coming together and taking action on important issues. There are many other areas and issues which remain to be improved.

With this in mind, the Town Council has tasked the Environmental, Planning and General Purpose's committee with looking at developing a Neighbourhood Plan – All Parish and Town Councils

are able to develop such a plan that seeks to enhance our Township and give the Town Council a greater say in what developments should look like – i.e. materials used, commitment to affordable housing, future community developments etc. We'll be exploring this over the next few months and would welcome your thoughts and input on these important discussions. As many of you are aware Kirklees Council have also reduced services such as street cleaning and grass cutting. Please contact your Town Councillors with any concerns, so that we may where possible step in to ensure our Town remains a clean and pleasant place to live.



Cllr Richard Noon